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July 7, 1947

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

After your very pleasant letter of 13 May I had been hoping that one of my cases would take me to Washington in the very near future so that I might extend my congratulations on your new position on a somewhat more personal plane.

I did have a thought in mind which I should have liked to have discussed with you had I been able to come, namely, whether it is possible for reserve officers like myself whose experience lies wholly in the field of centralized intelligence to request annual two-week training duty with the Navy on assignment to the Central Intelligence Group.

The present reserve program of the Navy seems to be directed almost entirely at sea-going sailors and flying aviators. Those of us who did special work with which you are familiar appear to have no definite place in the present reserve program despite the fact that any resumption of hostilities would probably find us assigned to a centralized combat intelligence organization.

Such a program should have the value of providing summer replacements of trained men for your organization and at the same time form a cadre of naval officers who have the necessary background to be of immediate use in any sudden expansion of the war-time duties of the Central Intelligence Group.

Naturally, I am considerably motivated by self-interest as I do not care to lose all of my contact with the Navy and yet it is particularly valueless to give up my vacation each year to be stationed at some airfield where the work has no connection with my previous duties. My thought was that if a regular application for such assignment to active duty would be favorably received by the Bureau of Naval Personnel, I could then request such an assignment through the Commandant of the Third Naval District for the last two weeks in August.

Trusting that in any event I shall have an early opportunity of seeing you, I remain,

Sincerely yours

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, U.S.
2430 E Street, NW
Washington 25, D. C.

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